

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 OES-05 CU-04 OMB-01 IO-10 CIAE-00 PM-03

INR-07 L-03 ACDA-10 NSAE-00 PA-02 PRS-01 SP-02

USIA-15 TRSE-00 SAJ-01 NSF-02 OIC-02 ERDA-07 NAS-01

DODE-00 FEA-01 EB-07 /097 W
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R 281635Z MAY 75

FM USMISSION NATO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2075

INFO ALL NATO CAPITALS 5334

USMISSION OECD PARIS

UNCLAS USNATO 2997

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: NATO, TGEN

SUBJECT: NATO SCIENCE: SCIENCE COMMITTEE MEETING AT NATO,
MAY 26, 1975

REF: STATE 122075

SUMMARY: NATO SCIENCE COMMITTEE (SC) MET AT NATO ON MAY 26, 1975. US REP WAS DR. ISIDOR I. RABI (WHO IS ALSO SC DOYEN) OF COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY. FOLLOWING WERE MEETING HIGHLIGHTS. END SUMMARY.

I. CHAIRMAN'S REMARKS: ASYG OZDAS DREW ATTENTION TO NEW SC YEARBOOK, NOTED THAT ADDITIONAL COPIES WERE AVAILABLE, AND ASKED THAT SC MEMBERS AND THEIR NATIONAL AUTHORITIES ADVISE ON MOST EFFECTIVE DISTRIBUTION IN THEIR COUNTRIES. ON BUDGETARY QUESTION BEFORE SC (ITEM VII, BELOW), OZDAS COMMENTED THAT, UNLESS FUNCTION OF NATO SCIENCE PROGRAM RECOGNIZED AND UNDERSTOOD BY NATIONAL POLICY MAKERS, SC WOULD HAVE CONTINUED DIFFICULTY IN OBTAINING ADEQUATE BUDGETARY SUPPORT TO FUND ITS ACTIVITIES AT DESIRED LEVEL OF QUALITY AND EFFECTIVENESS. FINALLY, OZDAS BRIEFED SC ON RECENT CCMS DEVELOPMENTS, NOTABLY UNCLASSIFIED

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APRIL 1975 PLENARY AND ITS ROUNDTABLE DISCUSSION FOCUSING ON "EFFECT OF ENERGY CRISIS ON ENVIRONMENTAL PROGRAMS".

II. INPUT AND OUTPUT INDICATORS IN SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH MR.

A.E. CAWKELL, DIRECTOR OF RESEARCH AT INSTITUTE FOR SCIENTIFIC INFORMATION MADE ORAL PRESENTATION ON BIBLIOGRAPHIC ANALYSIS AND COCITATION INDEXING, A PROJECT BEING CARRIED OUT IN UK, WHICH TRIGGERED LIVELY SC DISCUSSION ON ROLE AND UTILITY OF THESE TECHNIQUES. MISSION SENDING SUMMARY TEXT OF TALK TO DEPT (OES/HEMILY) FOR INFO. EXPANDED VERSION (INCLUDING CHARTS) WILL BE AVAILABLE HERE SHORTLY.

III. RESEARCH GRANTS PROGRAM. ACCORDING REPORT PRESENTED ON STATE OF SC RESEARCH GRANTS, PROGRAM APPLICANTS CURRENTLY RECEIVING ON AVERAGE ONLY ABOUT 40 PER CENT OF AMOUNT APPLIED FOR IN EACH CASE, AND AVERAGE GRANT IS VERY LOW--ABOUT \$4000. LARGEST PROPORTION OF RECENT APPLICATIONS AND AWARDS HAVE BEEN IN FIELDS OF CHEMISTRY AND BIOLOGY. MONEY IS USED MOSTLY TO FOSTER COLLABORATION BETWEEN RESEARCHERS BY FUNDING TRAVEL AND MEETING FACILITIES. 146 NEW GRANTS AND 85 GRANT EXTENSIONS WERE AWARDED IN PAST YEAR.

IV. ADVANCED STUDY INSTITUTES (ASI) PROGRAM. PROF. KORNBERG, PAST CHAIRMAN OF ASI PANEL, REPORTED ON ASI'S, ABOUT 50 OF WHICH ARE CURRENTLY BEING HELD ANNUALLY. ALL NATO COUNTRIES (EXCEPT LUXEMBOURG) AND 12 NON-NATO COUNTRIES IN PAST YEAR HAVE ACTED AS HOSTS. PROGRAM IN RECENT YEARS HAS ENABLED INTENSIVE INTERACTION AMONG ABOUT 4500 SCIENTISTS ANNUALLY, INCLUDING SMALL BUT SIGNIFICANT NUMBER OF LECTURERS AND STUDENTS FROM EAST EUROPEAN COUNTRIES (EE STUDENTS PAY A 1 OWN EXPENSES, BUT EE LECTURERS RECEIVE USUAL FEE FOR THEIR SERVICES. KORNBERG NOTED TWO QUESTIONS FOR SC CONSIDERATION; 1) SHOULD ASI PANEL DELIBERATELY SEEK TO ENCOURAGE APPLICATIONS ON TOPICS UNDER REPRESENTED AMONG ASI'S AT PRESENT (OR CONTINUE SIMPLY TO RESPOND TO MIX OF APPLICATIONS AS RECEIVED) AND 2), SHOULD PANEL ATTEMPT TO IMPOSE MORE STRINGENT FINANCIAL GUIDELINES UPON ASI ORGANIZERS? SC DISCUSSED QUESTION OF TRYING TO SEE THAT MORE ASI'S WERE HELD IN SCIENTIFICALLY LESS-DEVELOPED NATO MEMBER COUNTRIES AND ENCOURAGED THIS PRACTICE WHEN FEASIBLE AND APPROPRIATE. TURKISH REP (ERGIN) EXPRESSED HOPE THAT HIS COUNTRY COULD SERVE AS SETTING FOR UNCLASSIFIED

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MORE ASI'S, WHICH WOULD HELP STRENGTHEN SCIENCE IN TURKEY.

V. SPECIAL PROGRAM PANELS SC NOTED PANEL REPORTS. ALL SPECIAL PROGRAM PANELS WILL COME UP FOR REVIEW AND POSSIBLE CONTINUATION AT FALL SC MEETING WHEN SC MUST TAKE POSITIVE DECISION IN EACH CASE IF PANEL IS TO GO ON. OZDAS DREW ATTENTION TO PANEL GUIDELINES DEVELOPED AT LAST MEETING BY SC; THESE SUMMARIZED VIEWS EXPRESSED AT THAT TIME BY SC ON SUBJECT AND WOULD BE TAKEN INTO ACCOUNT IN DISCUSSIONS OF PANELS THIS FALL. (SEE ANNEX TO AC/137-R/51, SUMMARY RECORD OF FEB 6-7 SC MEETING AT NATO, FOR GUIDELINES).

VII. FINANCIAL MATTERS. WILL STRONG SUPPORT EXPRESSED BY BELGIUM,

CANADA (WHITEHEAD), FRANCE, (NEEL), ITALY, (SANTORI),
US (DRAWING ON REF B) AND UK (EDWARDS), SC RECOMMENDED
THE 1976 BUDGET PROPOSAL OF 300 MILLION BF FOR SCIENCE
PROGRAM. THE PROPOSED 9.9 PER CENT INCREASE IN 1976 SCIENCE
BUDGET OVER THAT OF 1975 WAS DESIGNED TO MAINTAIN PROGRAM AT
CONSTANT FUNDING SERVICES OF CONSULTANT SCIENCE DIVISION.
FRG REP (PESTEL) STATED THAT HIS FINANCE MINISTRY WAS UNSYM-
PATHETIC TO INCREASE IN SC BUDGET, BUT THAT HE WOULD CONTINUE
HIS EFFORT TO GAIN HIS AUTHORITIES' SUPPORT. UK REP (EDWARDS)
ACKNOWLEDGED ECONOMIC CONSTRAINTS FACING ALL ALLIED COUNTRIES,
EXPECIALLY UK; HOWEVER, HE BELIEVED SCIENCE PROGRAM HAD BEEN
EXCESSIVELY PENALIZED ON THIS ACCOUNT IN RECENT YEARS; DESPITE
UK'S OWN BUDGETARY PROBLEMS AT HOME, UK SUPPORTED PROPOSED
INCREASE IN SCIENCE BUDGET AS INVESTMENT IN THE FUTURE BY
ALLIANCE AND ITS MEMBER STATES.

VIII. REVISION OF REGULATIONS GOVERNING SC SUBSIDIARY BODIES.
BELGIAN REP (CERULUS), AS CHAIRMAN OF FIVE-MEMBER AD HOC
SUBCOMMITTEE, REPORTED ON GROUP'S SUGGESTED REVISIONS TO
PROCEDURES GOVERNING SC SUBSIDIARY BODIES, WHICH IT HAD RE-
VIEWED AT RECENT MEETING IN LONDON. THESE RECOMMENDATIONS WILL
COME BEFORE SC FOR FORMAL CONSIDERATION AND ACTION AT FALL
MEETING. MISSION SENDING COPY OF GROUP'S REPORT TO DEPT
(OES/HEMILY) FOR INFO.

IX. OTHER BUSINESS. SC STRONGLY SUPPORTED UK PROPOSAL FOR ANNUAL
SC REPORT ON ITS ACTIVITIES TO THE COUNCIL, SCIENCE DIVISION
WILL EXAMINE ROW BEST TO PROCEED IN PREPARING SUCH A REPORT.
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SC ALSO ACCEPTED BELGIAN PROPOSAL THAT SC CONDUCT TOUR
D'HORIZON DISCUSSION ON TOPIC, "THE EFFECT OF THE ECONOMIC
CRISIS ON BASIC SCIENCE AND HIGHER EDUCATION", AT FALL SC
MEETING.

X. FUTURE MEETINGS. SC ACCEPTED INVITATION FROM ICELAND'S
NATIONAL RESEARCH COUNCIL AND FOREIGN MINISTRY TO HOLD THE
NEXT SC MEETING IN REYKJAVIK ON OCTOBER 5-7. MISSION IS SENDING
COPY OF ICELANDIC INVITATION, WITH DETAILS OF PROGRAM, TO DEPT
(OES/HEMILY) FOR INFO.
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 18 AUG 1999
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: n/a
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 28 MAY 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: n/a
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 JAN 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975NATO02997
Document Source: ADS
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: n/a
Film Number: n/a
From: NATO
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750599/abbrzkgx.tel
Line Count: 154
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Office: n/a
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: STATE 122075
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: CunninFX
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 29 JUL 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <29 JUL 2003 by SilvaL0>; APPROVED <02 FEB 2004 by CunninFX>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
05 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: NATO SCIENCE: SCIENCE COMMITTEE MEETING AT NATO, MAY 26, 1975
TAGS: NATO, TGEN
To: STATE INFO ALL NATO CAPITALS
OECD PARIS
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006